

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 677  
By Trail

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Judge Don Ash for  
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who, in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm, and who, through their abiding commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as outstanding Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Circuit Court Judge Don Ash, who, as a representative of Cannon and Rutherford Counties in the 16th Judicial District, was recently elected to lead the Tennessee Judicial Conference, which comprises all of the State's 178 trial and appellate court judges; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ash will lead the Tennessee Judicial Conference in raising awareness of, and thus working to improve, how victims are treated in the court system, enhancing courtroom technology, and creating a Tennessee Judicial Family Institute; and

WHEREAS, he also expects to be more involved with resolving budget issues, evaluating educational opportunities for judges and the State Legislature, and persuading the Administrative Office of the Courts to increase public perception of the judiciary; his hopes for the future include providing mentors to spouses of new judges in order to address ethics and family issues through the establishment of the family institute and providing rural courtrooms the same technology as those in larger districts; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ash was elected to the bench in the 16th Judicial District in 1994 as a Circuit Court Judge after serving as a partner in the law firm of Bolin and Ash; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis School of Law, Judge Ash became the first judge in Tennessee to complete the

masters degree program at the University of Nevada-Reno, which he finished in May of 2000, and was recently honored to serve as a faculty member of that institution of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, proven to be a leader in his judicial district, Judge Ash has served as the presiding judge over the Domestic Violence Court and the Drug Court. He has also served on the Court of the Judiciary, the Tennessee Judicial Conference Executive Committee, the Tennessee Bar Association's Family Law Committee, the Rutherford/Cannon County Bar Association, and has earned the distinction of a Tennessee Bar Fellow; and

WHEREAS, in addition to all of his professional and personal activities, Judge Don Ash has still found time to lend his remarkable talents to authoring several publications, including his 1997 thesis for the University of Memphis Law School, entitled "A Bridge over Troubled Water: Changing the Custody Law in Tennessee," which was the basis for the drafting and adoption of the Parenting Plan (TCA §36-6-401) for the State of Tennessee. He was also instrumental in drafting Public Chapter 564, regarding improvements to the Court of Judiciary, and in developing the Tennessee Bar Association's online continuing legal education program, "Tennessee's Parenting Plan Overview"; and

WHEREAS, community involvement is an important part of Judge Ash's life as evidenced by his membership in numerous community and civic projects, including the Boys and Girls Club, Noon Rotary, and United Way of Rutherford County. His involvement has brought numerous recognitions, including the Tennessee Jaycees Outstanding Young Tennessean Award in 1993, the Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service in 1999, the Award of Excellence by the Mediation Association of Tennessee, Inc. in 1999, the 2001 Distinguished Service to Families Award by the Tennessee Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, and the 2002 Rutherford Pinnacle Award from the Leadership Rutherford Organization; and

WHEREAS, Don Ash epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; his extraordinary service to others, both professionally and personally, is a credit to not only himself and his family, but also to this State and his profession at large; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Judge Don Ash for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Circuit Court Judge Don Ash upon his election as leader of the Tennessee Judicial Conference and for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every continued future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.